

Pacific Northwest. Additionally, 63% of test sites on the west coast experienced levels of acidification known to cause commercial oyster production failures.

Our Pacific Northwest economies, our recreational and commercial fishing, and shellfish industry as well as our great northwest tourism economy—all depend on a healthy ocean. And because we are already seeing the effects of ocean acidification, we support your efforts and we support H.R. 1237, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

Much of our knowledge and understanding of ocean acidification that has emerged in the last decade can be credited to the federal funding authorized by Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring (FOARAM) Act of 2009. FOARAM established the federal government's work on ocean acidification by creating the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program and an interagency working group on ocean acidification. FOARAM's authorization expired in 2012. The COAST Research Act amends FOARAM to further improve our ability to understand acidification in the open ocean as well as in the coastal zone.

We support the COAST Research Act and believe it will help our coastal communities better prepare for the effects from ocean and coastal acidification. Thank you for your leadership to strengthen the nation's focus and investment in oceans and coastal acidification.

Sincerely,

SARA LABORDE,
Executive Vice President, Wild Salmon Center.

IOOS ASSOCIATION,
May 17, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI: On behalf of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Association and its national network of eleven coastal observing systems, I write to support the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) links together Federal agencies and eleven Regional Associations (RAs) to design and to operate regional observing systems to provide timely and reliable data and information on our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. Coastal acidification is becoming an even more pressing concern for many of our stakeholders and users, such as shellfish growers, shellfish harvesters, fishermen, resource managers, and coastal communities.

The impacts of coastal acidification vary, and each system must be tailored to the unique situation of the region. The IOOS RAs work closely with NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program to understand the regional context, to deploy and operate sensors, support the data that can detect and monitor acidification to support and improve warnings and alerts and to provide for the sharing and integration of data.

The COAST Research Act will enhance these and other efforts to understand, monitoring and manage the nation's ability to respond and adapt to ocean acidification. The Act does this by expanding the Advisory Board to include representatives of the variety of industries and stakeholder impacted by ocean acidification, expanding the strategic plan for research and monitoring, and expanding the role of the Federal agencies for addressing ocean acidification.

Sincerely,

ELLA (JOSIE) QUINTRELL,
Director.

HONORING COLONEL ALBEN N. HOPKINS, JR., AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Colonel Alben N. Hopkins, Jr., Staff Judge Advocate of the Mississippi Air National Guard.

Colonel Hopkins hails from Gulfport, Mississippi where he attended St. John High School. His wife Jodie and 12-year-old son, Carter, proudly call Gulfport home.

Colonel Hopkins has served in several positions, but none more fulfilling than serving his country. His military career began in 1990 when he became a legal specialist for the Mississippi Army National Guard. Colonel Hopkins has strong family military ties including his father, retired Major General Alben Norris Hopkins, Sr.

Colonel Hopkins's extensive educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Arts and History from the University of Mississippi, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He received his Juris Doctorate from the Mississippi College School of Law and a Master of Strategic Studies from the prestigious Air War College.

During his service, Colonel Hopkins was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, along with several other awards and decorations.

He is also a member of the Mississippi Bar, where he practices as a civilian lawyer with his private law firm of Hopkins, Barvie, & Hopkins, P.L.L.C. He has a general civil practice specializing in litigation.

Colonel Hopkins retired this month with over three decades of dedication to the state of Mississippi and our great nation. I thank Colonel Hopkins, and his family, for their service and sacrifice and on behalf of the 4th Congressional District, we wish him the best.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF PASTOR E. BAXTER MORRIS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and exemplary service of Pastor Edgar Baxter Morris, the beloved senior pastor of the historic First Baptist Church on North Ripley Street in Montgomery, Alabama who passed away on Sunday, May 2, 2021 surrounded by family. Pastor E. Baxter Morris was a devoted community leader and former Montgomery Police Department chaplain. He served for 50 years as the pastor of the iconic First Baptist Church, which was once pastored by Rev. Ralph Abernathy, a key strategist and architect of the Civil Rights Movement and Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Pastor Morris was born the second of two children to Mr. and Mrs. Willie and Ella Bea-

trice Morris in Anniston, Alabama. He studied at Jacksonville State University, Selma University, and Alabama State University. He continued his education at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and Samford University Extension Division. Later, Pastor Morris returned to the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the State Congress to serve as both an instructor and lecturer.

Pastor Morris was called to ministry on August 20, 1972. As a faithful public servant to his community, Pastor Morris served as Chaplain for Montgomery Police Department for over 20 years and as a mentor for Montgomery police officers and their families. As the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama for almost 50 years, Pastor Morris worked tirelessly to uphold the legacy of this historic church by promoting social justice and equity. Pastor Morris held numerous leadership positions within religious and community organizations. He is the past moderator of the Montgomery-Antioch of Christian Education, lecturer of the State Congress of Christian Education, missionary for the Alabama Baptist Southeast District State Convention, and lecturer of the Alabama Southeast District State Convention Women's Department.

Known as an active community leader, Pastor Morris dedicated his life to the police officers of Montgomery and to their families. He offered mentorship and support to police officers and emergency first-responders throughout his career. He served on various boards in Montgomery and the surrounding community including the Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority. Pastor Morris was also a member of the Fraternal Order and Masonic, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and the Inspector General 33° United Supreme Council A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry, S.J., Inc. Prince Hall.

Pastor Morris is survived by his loving and faithful wife, Rebie Morris, four children, twelve grandchildren, one great-grandniece, three nephews, one godson, and a host of other relatives and friends including his First Baptist Church Family, Ministerial Circle, Sigma Brothers, Zeta Sisters, and Masonic Family.

On a personal note, I am eternally grateful for the tremendous community contributions made by Pastor Morris and the dedicated congregation of First Baptist Church. Under the leadership of Pastor Morris, First Baptist Church opens its doors to thousands of travelers from across the world who want to learn more about the role this church played during the Civil Rights Movement. Pastor Morris remained committed to preserving and furthering the legacy of activism at First Baptist Church fostered by his predecessor Rev. Ralph Abernathy. I am especially appreciative of the warm and generous hospitality shown by Pastor Morris and the entire congregation of the First Baptist Church. They have served as the hosts for Members of Congress during the annual Faith and Politics Civil Rights Pilgrimage since 1998. Year after year, the highlight of the pilgrimage for many of my colleagues was the "five-star" Saturday Brunch hosted by Pastor Morris and his congregation. We will surely miss his warm smile, congenial personality, infinite wisdom, compassionate heart, and generous spirit. May we be comforted in knowing that the legacy of service and unwavering faith of Pastor Morris will live on in the hearts and actions of those he impacted.